**Reminder of the criteria for the Community Respiratory Service – from GWH Community Services**

The community respiratory service has received a marked increase in referrals over the last few months, with unfortunately many not being appropriate referrals. Like all services during this time, our services are operating virtually wherever possible and Home Visits can only be carried out when essential, as per government guidance. The services provided and referral criteria are:

**SPECIALIST COPD SERVICE:**

* Patient to have confirmed diagnosis of COPD
* Referrals are accepted if the patient has poor control of their condition (high symptom load, recurrent chest infections etc) despitetreatment as per NICE/GOLD guidelines or frequent hospital admissions due to COPD (>3 per year)
* Patients who are high priority will be triaged within 2 weeks (patients who are discharged from hospital following pneumonia or Type 2 respiratory failure). All other patients will be triaged within 4 weeks (seen within 12 weeks if a face to face contact is required). We are not set up as a rapid response service, and unfortunately do not have capacity to receive referrals to manage an acute exacerbation.
* Routine reviews of condition/medication, inhaler technique checks should still be carried out by primary care services.

**HOME OXYGEN ASSESSMENT SERVICE:**

As pre BTS guidelines, referrals for LTOT (Long Term Oxygen Therapy) can be considered for patients with chronic low SpO2 saturation i.e. when the patient is well and their SpO2 is less than 92%.

Ambulatory assessment can be considered when the oxygen saturation drops below 90% on room air or 4% below their normal resting saturations, when active/walking.

**Please ensure that you are able to provide a current measurement(s) of SpO2 prior to referral, or the referral will be returned to sender.**

**PULMONARY REHABILITATION SERVICE:**

The pulmonary rehab service has been altered significantly to provide the best service possible during the current restrictions. We can currently offer:

1) Home based PR (non-tech group) – patients receive a face-to-face assessment, a workbook containing appropriate exercises and educational material, twice weekly phonecalls from one of the PR team to support, guide and answer any questions.

2) Home based PR (tech group) – patients receive a face-to-face assessment, a workbook as above and twice weekly virtual group education/support sessions.

3) Face to face PR – following a face-to-face assessment, patients attend face-to-face sessions twice weekly at Park South Community Centre. These sessions adhere to social distancing, PPE requirements, one-way system and have full risk assessments in place. As such, these sessions are shorter than the pre-covid programme, are not able to offer refreshments but still provide exercise, education and support  in a small, safe group environment.

Prior to considering referral into the PR service, please ensure that your patients are willing and able to engage with one of these options as above.

**TO REFER INTO ANY OF THE RESPIRATORY SERVICES ABOVE, please complete the referral form that can be found on Ardens and send via E-Mail to:** gwh.communitycopdoxygenspecialistservices@nhs.net